

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 IO-13 /077 W

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P R 260341Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2866

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 2429

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJ: NDP CAUCUS ISSUES STRONG STATEMENT ON MYONGDONG DECISION  
AND CHAIRMAN'S RETURN FROM U.S.

REF: SEOUL 2303 P R 220806Z MAR 77

SUMMARY. ON MARCH 24, NDP CAUCUS MET IN BOISTEROUS, FREE-WHEELING SEVEN-HOUR SESSION AFTER WHICH PARTY ISSUED STRONG FOUR-POINT STATEMENT APOLOGIZING FOR NOT TAKING FIRMER POSITION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, MYONGDONG TRIAL, AND U.S. TROOP WITHDRAWAL. STATEMENT WAS PROMOTED LARGELY BY INTRA-PARTY CRITICISM OF YI CHOL-CHOL-SUNG'S REMARKS SUPPORTING ROKG IN U.S., GRASS ROOTS DISPLEASURE WITH PARTY'S WEAK IMAGE, AND CHONG IL-HYONG'S STIRRING FAREWELL ADDRESS TO HIS PARTY. PROSPECT IS THAT NDP WILL BE CHARACTERIZED IN COMING MONTHS BY INCREASED MILITANCY AND INTENSIFIED FACTIONAL STRIFE.

1. FOLLOWING SEVEN-HOUR CAUCUS WIDELY REPORTED IN PRESS IN WHICH YI CHOL-SUNG WAS ROUNDLY CRITICIZED BY ALL FACTIONS OF NDP WITH EXCEPTION OF HIS MOST LOYAL ADHERENTS, AND MYONGDONG DEFENDANT CHONG IL-HYONG DELIVERED TOUGH, MOVING FAREWELL ADDRESS, NDP ISSUED FOUR-POINT STATEMENT ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:  
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A. WE HUMBLY APOLOGIZE TO PEOPLE OF COUNTRY FOR FACT ELDER CITIZENS REPRESENTING SECOND LINE OF DEFENSE (I.E. NOT NATIONAL ASSEMBLYMENT) AND CLERGYMEN TOOK RESPONSIBILITY AND CONSEQUENCES FOR WHAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN UNDERTAKEN BY US, THE NATIONAL ASS- EMBLYMEN OF THE OPPOSITION PARTY.

B. WE FIND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO UNDERSTAND WHY GOVT. DEALT SO HARSHLY WITH THOSE INVOLVED IN THAT (MYONGDONG) INCIDENT, (PARTICULARLY) WHEN QUESTION OF U.S. TROOP WITHDRAWALS ARE BEING DISCUSSED IN DETAIL.

C. WE WILL REDOUBLE OUR EFFORTS FOR RESTORATION OF ALL POLITICAL FREEDOMS ACCORDING TO OUR PARTY POLICY AND CONSENSUS.

D. WE CONTEND THAT IT IS A BETRAYAL OF THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY AND NEGLECT OF ITS ORIGINAL DUTIES FOR NATIONAL ASSEMBLY NOT TO BE CONVOKED IN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION AT THIS TIME WHEN COUNTRY IS FACED WITH MOST IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL ISSUES AND WHEN A NATIONAL ASSEMBLYMAN HAS BEEN DEPRIVED OF HIS SEAT. WE WANT GOVT. AND RULING PARTY TO TAKE HEED THAT ANY UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT RESULTING FROM NOT (HOLDING SPECIAL SESSION) WILL BE ITS RESPONSIBILITY ALONE.

2. THIS STATEMENT FOLLOWED SEVEN-HOUR PARTY CAUCUS CHARACTERIZED BY NOISE, EMOTION, AND WIDESPREAD CRITICISM OF PARTY CHAIRMAN YI CHOL-SUNG'S RECENT STATEMENTS IN U.S. DEFENDING ROKG'S DOMESTIC POLICIES, PARTY'S GROWING SAKURA TIMAGE WITH ITSELF AND PUBLIC, AND ITS POSITION WELL OFF THE FRONT LINE DURING DEVELOPMENT OF MYONGDONG CASE.

3. PARTY ELDER STATESMAN AND MYONGDONG DEFENDANT CHONG IL-HYONG DELIVERED DRAMATIC FAREWELL ADDRESS TO PARTY, STRESSING HIS LONGTIME REPUTATION AS PATRIOT AND HIS RESPECT FOR DEMOCRACY. HE CLAIMED HIS TROUBLES HAD BEGUN WHEN HE ONCE SUGGESTED ON ASSEMBLY FLOOR THAT PRESIDENT PAK RESIGN. HE DEPLORED EVIDENT CONFIDENTIAL

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WILLINGNESS OF PEOPLE TO ACCEPT REPRESSION POLICIES IN EXCHANGE FOR ECONOMIC GAIN. HE MADE FIRM CONNECTION BETWEEN HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE IN KOREA AND ANNOUNCED U.S. WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS. DESCRIBING HIMSELF AS AN OLD SOLDIER WHO WOULD NOT FADE AWAY BUT INSTEAD GROW MORE VIGOROUS, HE CHALLENGED ANYONE WHO WISHED TO FOLLOW HIS AND CONCLUDED: QUOTE IF YOU HAPPEN TO FIND MY BODY, PLEASE INSCRIBE ON MY CROSS, MY NAME AND EPITAPH: AN OLD SOLDIER WHO DESIRED FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY. UNQUOTE

4. REST OF SEVEN-HOUR SESSION WAS DEVOTED TO DISCUSSION OF PARTY POLICIES AND POSITION OF YI CHOL SUNG IN WAKE OF MYONGDONG TRIAL AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF U.S. TROOP WITHDRAWAL. YI WAS ROUNDLY CRITICIZED FOR HIS PRO-GOVERNMENT STATEMENTS IN U.S. END WAS REPEATEDLY PRESSED TO RESIGN. ACCORDING TO EMBASSY SOURCES, O SEUNG SAID QUOTE ARE YOU GOING DOWN WITH PRESIDENT PAK WHEN HE GOES DOWN OR ARE YOU GOING TO STAY AROUND TO BE THE NEW LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT? UNQUOTE (WHILE PRESS DID NOT REPORT THIS REMARK, DRP POLICY PLANNING CHAIRMAN WAS REPORTEDLY

CONSIDERING WHAT DISCIPLINARY ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN AGAINST O.)  
KIM YONG-SAM ANNOUNCED HE WOULD RESIGN HIS POSITION AS PARTY  
ADVISOR AS GESTURE OF DISSATISFACTION WITH CURRENT NDP POLICIES.

5. COMING TO HIS OWN DEFENSE, YI ALLEGED THAT CONTEXT OF HIS  
REMARKS IN U.S. WAS POSSIBLY NOT REPORTED FULLY AND THAT HE  
HAD NOT SAID ANYTHING IN U. .. DIFFERENT FROM WHAT HE HAD AL-  
READY BEEN SAYING IN KOREA. HE ASKED FOR TIME TO PROVE THAT  
HIS PRESENT MANNER OF DEALING WITH ROKG MIGHT WELL PAY DIVIDENDS  
IN FUTURE. WHILE SEVERAL OBSERVERS TOLD EMBOFF THERE IS NO  
PRESENT DANGER OF YI'S BEING UNSEATED, ATTACKS ON HIM REFLECT  
NOT ONLY FACTIONAL RIVALRIES IN ANTICIPATION OF NEXT YEAR'S  
ELECTION, BUT ALSO SUBSTANTIAL GRASS ROOT SENTIMENT THAT THE  
NDP MUST ACT MORE LIKE AN OPPOSITION PARTY, PARTICULARLY  
SINCE YI IS INDEBTED TO CHONG FOR  
HIS SELECTION AS PARTY  
LEADER LAST YEAR. HE IS NOW UNDER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE TO SHOW  
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POSITIVE BENEFITS FROM THE GOVERNMENT OR TO ADOPT A MORE  
MILITANT POSTURE.  
STERN

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## Message Attributes

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